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UNCLAS ZAGREB 001142

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR PRM: TTARGOS
DEPT FOR EUR/SCE: DROBINSON
BELGRADE FOR DSALAZAR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREF HR
SUBJECT: Addendum Nomination for Ambassador's Refugee Fund 2005

REF: (A) STATE 27113 (B) Zagreb 246 (C) Selinger-Targos email

¶1. Post appreciates allocation of funds for two projects under PRM's

DONJI LAPAC PLAYROOM (USD 5000)

¶2. Background: The entire municipality of Lapac (354 square km, 2,300 inhabitants) previously had no functioning kindergartens until the Red Crescent established a playroom in 2003. The playroom is situated in a reconstructed building that was a destroyed high school. In 2004, the Refugee Council (NRC) financed the playroom but will discontinue fund 2005 for financial reasons. The playroom has proven able to fill the proper kindergarten.

Location Profile: Before the war, Donji Lapac was about 95% ethnic Serb residents. During the conflict, the region was severely destroyed. The region is now a mixed community: an estimated 75% of the population is Serb while the remaining 25% is ethnic Croat (mostly Bosnian Croat se

Recipient: Croatian Red Cross' branch office would supervise.

Project: As no kindergarten or playroom facility exists in the region, this facility serves as a valuable resource for the community. Currently, there are enrolled - 20 Croats (from settler families) and 14 Serbs (from refugee families). The playroom ethnic breakdown is the opposite to that of the structure in the Lapac municipality due to the fact that most Serb refugees are elderly and Bosnian Croat residents are usually young families.

Use of Funds: Funds would cover a teacher's salary to work part-time daily, including pension and health contributions. The current teacher is a social worker and has received praise from previous donors. The municipality pays for utility costs.

Public Diplomacy: Post would highlight its support for an underdeveloped region.

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